

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Brown, et al.  
Serial No. : 08/621,631  
Filed : March 26, 1996  
For : Recovery of Metal Values  
Art Unit : 2204  
Examiner : Miller, E.

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231



**TRANSMITTAL**

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a copy of the following document for filing in the above-identified application:

**Election in Response to Restriction Requirement**

The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 161435. A duplicate of this transmittal is attached for that purpose.

Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16.  
Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

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Date

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**Election**

Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed February 15, 2000 in the above-identified application.

Amendments

In the Claims: please add new claim 22 as follows:

*Sub 45*  
22. (New) A process for selectively extracting a scandium metal value from an ore residue from a tantalum production process which includes fluorine, scandium and one or more solubilizable metal values, the solubilizable metal values including tantalum or niobium metal values, the process comprising:

*F1*  
reacting the ore residue with a sulfuric acid solution to solubilize at least a portion of the tantalum or niobium metal values from the ore residue and produce an undissolved material;

separating the undissolved material;

reacting the undissolved material with sulfuric acid for a period of time, and under temperature and pressure conditions sufficient to liberate hydrogen fluoride gas and to generate a sulfated material;

leaching the sulfated material in water to solubilize at least a portion of the scandium metal values contained therein and generate an aqueous solution comprising said solubilized